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Employment Situation, October 1987

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Employment Security

Maine Division of Economic Analysis and Research

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BATH-BRUNSWICK LABOR MARKET AREA

The unemployment rate for the Bath-Brunswick Labor Market Area (LMA) dropped from 3.0 percent in September to 2.7 percent in October. Between September and October both the State and national unemployment rates remained unchanged at 2.9 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively. Last October the Bath-Brunswick LMA had an unemployment rate of 2.8 percent. This October increases in employment in Federal Government and at Bath Iron Works were the primary reasons for the improvement in the employment situation. Other sectors of the local economy showed little or no change from September. The number of people employed in the Bath-Brunswick LMA rose from 27,930 in September to 28,450 in October, while the number unemployed fell from 850 to 790.

BIDDEFORD LABOR MARKET AREA

Resident employment in the Biddeford Labor Market Area dropped slightly from 27,450 to 26,930 between September and October, while the number unemployed increased from 570 to 730. This resulted in a rise in the unemployment rate from 2.0 percent in September to 2.6 percent in October. Last October the unemployment rate was 4.2 percent. The current rate of 2.6 percent continues to be lower than both the State and national rates of 2.9 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively. The decline in employment was due mostly to seasonal job losses in wholesale and retail trade. Overall manufacturing employment remained strong, with only minor layoffs recorded across several industries.

LEWISTON-AUBURN METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

The unemployment rate in the Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) remained unchanged at 3.6 percent between September and October. The rate was significantly lower than the rate of 5.3 percent recorded for October 1986. In fact, the October rate was the lowest October unemployment rate for the Lewiston-Auburn MSA since 1968, when the unemployment rate was 3.4 percent.

Resident employment in October was 40,400 compared with 39,800 in September. The number unemployed remained at 1,500. Unemployment rates for Maine and the Nation were 2.9 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively.

Between September and October employment losses in rubber and miscellaneous plastics products, machinery, and hotels and other lodging places were offset largely by increases in electrical machinery, retail trade, and recreational services.

PORTLAND METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Total employment in the Portland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) continued to increase between September and October. Resident employment advanced from 125,100 to 127,300. The number unemployed also showed a slight increase from 2,100 to 2,300 during that same period. The resulting unemployment rate for October was 1.8 percent, up one-tenth of a point from September. A year ago the unemployment rate was 2.0 percent. The current local unemployment rate compares favorably with both the State and national rates of 2.9 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively. Although employment levels in most industries remained stable or showed slight increases, continued hiring in state and local school systems was the primary cause of area employment growth.

RUMFORD LABOR MARKET AREA

The Rumford Labor Market Area unemployment rate showed a significant decline from 4.6 percent in September to 3.6 percent in October. The number employed rose from 8,450 to 8,500, while the number unemployed fell from 410 to 320. The 3.6 percent unemployment rate for October compares favorably with the October rates of 7.5 percent in 1986, 5.9 percent in 1985, and 7.7 percent in 1984. It is also the lowest October rate ever recorded in the labor market area. The return to work of individuals separated from paper, shoes, and construction was more than enough to offset the layoffs at Diamond Brands, Inc. Diamond Brands, Inc. has begun layoffs in its cotton swab division, as a result of a decision to transfer swab-making operations to Juarez, Mexico. According to the Lewiston Daily Sun, up to 148 people may be laid off by May 1988 as a result of this decision.

WATERVILLE LABOR MARKET AREA

The unemployment rate in the Waterville Labor Market Area dropped slightly from 2.9 percent in September to 2.7 percent in October. While the number employed dropped somewhat from 22,820 to 22,680, the number unemployed also declined from 680 to 620. The resultant unemployment rate of 2.7 percent was slightly lower than the statewide rate of 2.9 percent and well below the national rate of 5.7 percent. A year ago the local unemployment rate was somewhat higher at 4.3 percent. At that time 21,790 residents were employed, while 980 were jobless. Employment levels this year declined from September to October in both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing. Within manufacturing, employment gains in food processing were not enough to offset losses in paper and allied products, apparel, and metals and machinery. Within nonmanufacturing, small seasonal losses occurred in retail trade and services.



CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE BY MAINE LABOR MARKET AREA, NEW ENGLAND STATES, AND THE UNITED STATES ^{1/}

AREAS	LABOR FORCE ^{2/}			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Oct. 87	Sept. 87	Oct. 86	Oct. 87	Sept. 87	Oct. 86	Oct. 87	Sept. 87	Oct. 86	Oct. 87	Sept. 87	Oct. 86
MAINE-Statewide	610.3	612.0	568.9	592.7	594.2	546.6	17.6	17.8	22.3	2.9	2.9	3.9
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA	43,400	42,000	40,800	42,100	40,900	39,100	1,300	1,100	1,700	3.0	2.6	4.2
Lawiston-Auburn MSA	41,900	41,300	40,400	40,400	39,800	38,300	1,500	1,500	2,100	3.6	3.6	5.2
Portland MSA	129,600	127,200	119,600	127,300	125,100	117,200	2,300	2,100	2,400	1.8	1.7	2.0
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA ^{3/}	n/a	135,600	128,100	n/a	133,200	124,900	n/a	2,400	3,200	n/a	1.8	2.5
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta	33,950	34,110	32,120	32,960	32,840	31,000	990	1,270	1,120	2.9	3.7	3.5
Bath-Brunswick	29,240	28,780	26,460	28,450	27,930	25,820	790	850	640	2.7	3.0	2.4
Belfast	11,480	11,630	10,930	11,000	11,210	10,280	480	420	650	4.2	3.6	5.9
Bliddeford	27,660	28,020	25,440	26,930	27,450	24,360	730	570	1,080	2.6	2.0	4.2
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset	14,510	14,900	12,900	14,260	14,610	12,610	250	290	290	1.7	1.9	2.2
Calais-Eastport	14,020	14,830	13,340	13,080	14,090	12,310	940	740	1,030	6.7	5.0	7.7
Caribou-Presque Isle	23,430	24,590	21,080	22,130	23,080	19,900	1,300	1,510	1,180	5.5	6.1	5.6
Central Penobscot	2,820	2,670	2,630	2,740	2,570	2,440	80	100	190	2.8	3.7	7.2
Dover-Foxcroft	6,560	6,540	6,600	6,320	6,300	6,190	240	240	410	3.7	3.7	6.2
Ellsworth	24,950	26,100	22,810	24,380	25,520	22,010	570	580	800	2.3	2.2	3.5
Farmington	12,170	12,140	12,140	11,630	11,610	11,410	540	530	730	4.4	4.4	6.0
Fort Kent-Allagash	5,900	6,360	5,550	5,680	6,080	5,240	220	280	310	3.7	4.4	5.6
Greenville	1,310	1,350	1,240	1,260	1,310	1,170	50	40	70	3.8	3.0	5.6
Houlton	6,100	6,680	5,890	5,910	6,440	5,570	190	240	320	3.1	3.6	5.4
Kittery-York ^{3/}	30,920	30,860	28,290	30,680	30,610	27,990	240	250	300	0.8	0.8	1.1
Lincoln-Howland	5,260	5,510	5,250	5,080	5,300	4,950	180	210	300	3.4	3.8	5.7
Livermore Falls	4,760	5,030	4,620	4,510	4,800	4,360	250	230	260	5.3	4.6	5.6
Madawaska-Van Buren	4,020	4,260	3,630	3,670	3,990	3,380	350	270	250	8.7	6.3	6.9
Millinocket-East Millinocket	4,360	4,320	4,270	4,110	4,130	3,990	250	190	280	5.7	4.4	6.6
Norway-Paris	12,270	12,090	11,520	11,900	11,740	10,950	370	350	570	3.0	2.9	4.9
Patten-Island Falls	2,530	2,780	2,450	2,400	2,670	2,300	130	110	150	5.1	4.0	6.1
Rockland	19,070	19,240	16,830	18,690	18,890	16,240	380	350	590	2.0	1.8	3.5
Rumford	8,820	8,860	7,980	8,500	8,450	7,350	320	410	630	3.6	4.6	7.9
Sanford	16,900	16,730	15,330	16,530	16,270	14,720	370	460	610	2.2	2.7	4.0
Sebago Lakes Region	13,830	14,020	12,450	13,570	13,640	12,110	260	380	340	1.9	2.7	2.7
Skowhegan	24,690	25,070	23,140	23,750	24,070	21,810	940	1,000	1,330	3.8	4.0	5.7
Southwest Penobscot	10,590	10,460	10,530	10,060	9,950	9,900	530	510	630	5.0	4.9	6.0
Waterville	23,300	23,500	22,770	22,680	22,820	21,790	620	680	980	2.7	2.9	4.3
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES												
Connecticut	n/a	1,795.5	1,759.4	n/a	1,744.8	1,702.8	n/a	50.7	56.6	n/a	2.8	3.2
Massachusetts	3,097.0	3,053.0	3,037.7	3,014.0	2,969.0	2,935.1	84.0	84.0	102.6	2.7	2.8	3.4
New Hampshire	n/a	600.5	570.0	n/a	588.1	557.1	n/a	12.4	12.9	n/a	2.1	2.3
Rhode Island	524.7	522.6	518.5	509.2	506.6	501.7	15.5	16.0	16.8	3.0	3.1	3.2
Vermont	301.8	296.2	298.3	291.1	287.7	286.1	10.7	8.5	12.2	3.5	2.9	4.1
NEW ENGLAND STATES	n/a	6,879.8	6,752.8	n/a	6,690.4	6,529.4	n/a	189.4	223.4	n/a	2.8	3.3
UNITED STATES ^{4/}	120,744	119,884	118,699	113,898	113,027	110,857	6,845	6,857	7,842	5.7	5.7	6.6

MSA Metropolitan Statistical Area
Note: n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing. Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding.

Footnotes

- ^{1/} Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data adjusted to place of residence basis. Excludes members of the Armed Forces.
^{2/} Current and last month figures preliminary, year ago figures revised.
^{3/} Kittery-York is the eight town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.
^{4/} National estimates based on a sample of household visits; state estimates based on enlargements of employment figures reported.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

Labor Market Information Services



EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

STATISTICAL

DATA

SERIES: ES-10-87

OCTOBER 1987

SUPPLEMENT TO THE STATEWIDE MONTHLY NEWS RELEASE

A BRIEF ANALYSIS COVERING SELECTED MAINE LABOR MARKET AREAS

AUGUSTA LABOR MARKET AREA

Employment rose and the number unemployed fell in the Augusta Labor Market Area during October. The resultant unemployment rate of 2.9 percent equaled the statewide rate. The last time the local unemployment rate was at or below the statewide rate was in January 1987. The local unemployment rate for October was well below the corresponding national rate of 5.7 percent. Resident employment increased from 32,840 in September to 32,960 in October, despite small losses in private employment in both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing. In manufacturing, minor layoffs were recorded in food and kindred products and paper and allied products. In nonmanufacturing, small seasonal losses occurred in retail trade and services. All these losses were more than offset by employment gains in state and local school systems.

BANGOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Resident employment in the Bangor Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) rose from 42,000 in September to 43,400 in October, while the number of unemployed increased from 1,100 to 1,300. The resulting unemployment rate rose from 2.6 percent to 3.0 percent. A year ago 1,700 local residents were unemployed and the unemployment rate stood at 4.2 percent. Corresponding State and national unemployment rates for this October were 2.9 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively. Manufacturing employment in the Bangor MSA registered a slight increase, with gains in lumber and wood products, leather and leather products, and transportation equipment more than offsetting losses in paper and allied products and petroleum and coal products. In nonmanufacturing, all major industry groups recorded higher employment in October. Wholesale and retail trade and government registered the largest employment gains. Increased employment can be expected at Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor with the opening of a new wing containing a coronary care complex. The \$4.5 million expansion will allow treatment and surgery for cardiac patients from Northeastern and Eastern Maine. These patients would normally be referred to Portland or Boston for treatment or surgery.

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CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE BY MAINE COUNTY

STATISTICAL DATA SERIES: CCLF-10-87

COUNTY 1/	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE 2/			UNEMPLOYMENT			RATE			RESIDENT EMPLOYED		
	Oct. 87	Sept. 87	Oct. 86	Oct. 87	Sept. 87	Oct. 86	Oct. 87	Sept. 87	Oct. 86	Oct. 87	Sept. 87	Oct. 86
ANDROSCOGGIN	48,840	48,560	47,090	1,750	1,750	2,430	3.6	3.6	5.2	47,090	46,810	44,660
AROOSTOOK	41,220	43,830	37,840	2,160	2,380	2,150	5.2	5.4	5.7	39,060	41,450	35,690
CUMBERLAND	140,040	137,620	128,730	2,630	2,470	2,620	1.9	1.8	2.0	137,410	135,150	126,110
FRANKLIN	12,170	12,140	12,140	540	530	730	4.4	4.4	6.0	11,630	11,610	11,410
HANCOCK	24,950	26,100	22,810	570	580	800	2.3	2.2	3.5	24,380	25,520	22,010
KENNEBEC	55,620	55,970	53,360	1,560	1,890	2,070	2.8	3.4	3.9	54,060	54,080	51,290
KNOX	16,960	17,080	14,960	340	280	520	2.0	1.6	3.5	16,620	16,800	14,440
LINCOLN	17,170	17,610	15,270	300	370	370	1.7	2.1	2.4	16,870	17,240	14,900
OXFORD	23,890	23,810	21,960	710	790	1,230	3.0	3.3	5.6	23,180	23,020	20,730
PENOBSCOT	65,930	64,640	63,050	2,290	2,140	3,130	3.5	3.3	5.0	63,640	62,500	59,920
PISCATAQUIS	7,870	7,890	7,840	290	280	480	3.7	3.5	6.1	7,580	7,610	7,360
SAGadahoc	15,420	15,240	13,910	490	570	320	3.2	3.7	2.3	14,930	14,670	13,590
SOMERSET	24,690	25,070	23,140	940	1,000	1,330	3.8	4.0	5.7	23,750	24,070	21,810
WALDO	12,740	12,850	12,110	520	450	700	4.1	3.5	5.8	12,220	12,400	11,410
WASHINGTON	14,020	14,830	13,340	940	740	1,030	6.7	5.0	7.7	13,080	14,090	12,310
YORK	88,770	88,800	81,350	1,580	1,580	2,360	1.8	1.8	2.9	87,190	87,220	78,990

1 Labor force, employment, and unemployment data are not seasonally adjusted. All data are on a place of residence basis. Members of the armed forces are excluded.

2 Current and last month figures preliminary; year ago figures revised.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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